

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 PARIS 00439 071939Z

64

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 NEA-10

ACDA-19 EB-11 SCI-06 SCEM-02 COME-00 INT-08 OMB-01

TRSE-00 DRC-01 /146 W

----- 035568

R 071828Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5901

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USNATO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USIA WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PARIS 0439

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: FRENCH PRESS REACTION TO SCHLESINGER MIDDLE EAST COMMENTS

SUMMARY: SOME KEY PRESS INTEREST HAS BEEN AROUSED IN FRANCE BY SECRETARY SCHLESINGER'S INTERVIEW REMARKS (AS QUOTED BY AMERICAN NEWS AGENCIES AND FRENCH PRESS) ABOUT EVENTUAL PRESSURE BY AMERICAN PUBLIC FOR ARMED INTERVENTION AGAINST ARAB OIL EMBARGO COMMENT RANGED FROM RIGHT-WING L'AUREORE COLUMNIST VIEW THAT IT WAS "THE LAST WARNING" TO ARAB COUNTRIES, WHO HAVE "USED AND ABUSED" THE OIL WEAPON, AND MIGHT GET US MARINES NEXT TIME AROUND, TO LESS SHRILL, MORE BALANCED COVERAGE IN MOST OTHER PAPERS, WHICH ADDED THAT SECDEF HAD VIRTUALLY EXCLUDED SUCH POSSIBILITY. END SUMMARY.

1. SECRETARY OF DEFENSE'S REMARKS ON ARAB OIL EMBARGO, IN
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 PARIS 00439 071939Z

TELEVISION INTERVIEW BROADCAST IN U.S.EVENING OF JANUARY 6, HAVE

ATTRACTED SHARP INTEREST IN SOME QUARTERS OF FRENCH PRESS. U.S. WIRE SERVICES AND SOME FRENCH NEWSPAPERS REPORT HIM AS SAYING THAT "IF CARRIED TOO FAR," ARAB OIL EMBARGO COULD PRODUCE PRESSURE FROM U.S. "PUBLIC OPINION" FOR "USE OF FORCE" AGAINST ARAB COUNTRIES, AND THAT THE "INDEPENDENT POWERS OF SOVERIGN STATES SHOULD NOT BE USED IN SUCH A WAY AS WOULD CRIPPLE" THE INDUSTRIALIZED WORLD. THIS WOULD "RUN TOOGREAT A RISK", HE IS REPORTED AS SAYING, " NOT ONLY FROM OUR STANDPOINT, BUT ALSO FOR THE OIL-PRODUCING COUNTRIES." AMERICAN AGENCIES (BUT NOT FRENCH PRESS) ALSO QUOTE SECRETARY AS SAYING U.S. IS "DEDICATED TO INDEPENDENCE OFFREE STATES," INCLUDING THOSE IN MIDDLE EAST, AND ADD THAT HE "DISMISSED" CHANCES THAT U.S. WOULD PURSUE POLICY OF FORCE.

2. IN RIGHT-OF-CENTER AUORE, COLUMNIST ROLAND FAURE, READING "BETWEEN THE LINES" OF SCHLSLINGER REMARKS, FOUND FOLLOWING INTERPRETATION "THE JOKE IS OVER. HAVING FUN CREATING FEAR IS OVER. THE ARAB STATES HAD BETTER WATCH OUT NOW. HAVING DISCOVERED, WITH A MIXTURE OF DELIGHT AND DISBELIEF, THE UNSUSPECTEDPOWER OF THE OIL WEAPON, HAVING USED AND ABUSED IT, THEY SHOULD BEWARE THE BOOMERANG. WHAT WILL THIS DIPLOMATIC WEAPON, FEARFUL IN PEACETIME, BE WORTH AGAINST THE MILITARY WEAPON, IF THAT IS THE ONLY RECOURSE LEFT TO THE WEST? AND, TO THEEXTENT THAT THE EXCESSIVE AND UNJUSTIFIABLE USE OF THE EMBARGO PUTS INTO VERY REAL DANGER THE BALANCE OF OUR SOCIETY, HOW WILL IT BE POSSIBLE NOT TO FIGHT IT, EVEN WITH THE USE OF FORCE?" FAURE CALLED SECDEF'S WORDS "NO AFTER-DINNER SPEECH,BUT A SERIOUS AND NUANCED STATEMENT", AND ADDED THAT GIVEN THE WEIGHT OF PUBLIC OPINION IN U.S. AND ITS "PRESENT DEGREE OF EXASPERATION" TOWARD "ARAB DIKTATS", ONE SHOULD NOT UNDERESTIMATE THE ECHO HIS REMARKS WILL HAVE. HE DECLARED THAT "THE AMERICAN WARNING" TO ARABS IS "ALL THE MORE SERIOUS" SINCE IT WAS ACCOMPANIED BY AN "EXHORTATION TO NATO COUNTRIES

NOT TO ALLOW A WEAKENING OF THEIR MILITARY ORGANIZATION". WHICH, FOR FAURE, MEANSTHAT EUROPEANS THIS TIME WOULD BE WRONG TO REFUSE SUPPORT TO U.S., AS THEY DID DURING OCTOBER WAR, SINCE IT IS TRULY EUROPEAN INTERESTS AMERICANS WILL DEFEND AS WELL AS THEIR OWN. HE CONCLUDED THAT SCHLESINGER REMARKS "ARE THELAST WARNING TO THE EMIRS WITHOUT COST. NEXT TIME, THE WORD COULD BE GIVEN TO THE MARINES". (COMMENT: A GOOD PART OF THE EXPLANATION OF FAURE'S RATHER PYROTECHNICAL REACTION DOUBTLESS LIES IN SIMPLE FACT OF AUORE'S ANTI-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 PARIS 00439 071939Z

ARAB ORIENTATION, DATING FROM ALGERIAN INDEPENDENCE.)

3. RADIO LUXEMBOURG, IN MORNING NEWS JANUARY 7, HEADLINED SCHLESINGER COMMENT THAT U.S. PUBLIC OPINION MIGHT PUSH FOR USE OF FORCE AGAINST ARABS BUT OMITTED HIS VIEW THAT SUCH ACTION IS EXTREMELY UNLIKELY. HOWEVER, STATION FOLLOWED WITH REPORT FROM ITS U.S. CORRESPONDENT WHO SAID U.S. PUBLIC IS CURRENTLY SHOWING FEW SIGNS OF IRRITATION WITH ARAB EMBARGO.

4. PRO-GOVERNNMENT FRANCE-SOIR OBSERVED THAT NO ONE IS FORCED TO TAKE LITERALLY COMMENTS BY "A MINISTER WHO SYMBOLIZES HARD-LINE ASPECT OF AMERICAN POLICY", ANY MORE THAN THOSE BY ARAB SPOKESMEN WHO TALK OF DESTROYING OILWELLS OF WEST TRIED TO CAPTURE THEM. A MINITARY OPERATION SEEMS INCONGRUOUS AND RISKY, PAPER SAID, "BUT NOWADAYS GOOD SENSE IS THE LEAST WELL-SHARED QUALITY ON EARTH". THE WORDS OF AMERICANS AND ARABS ALIKE ON THIS SUBJECT APPEAR MERELY AS ATTEMPT AT DISCUASION, SAID FRANCE SOIR, AND THE AMERICANS, MOREOVER, WERE CAREFUL TO EXPRESS THEIR DOUBT THAT MILITARY INTERVENTION WOULD EVEN TAKE PLACE.

5. LE MONDE REPORTED SECDEF'S STATEMENT VERY BRIEFLY, INCLUDING HIS DOUBT ON POSSIBILITY OF ARMED INTERVENTION DUE TO HIS BELIEF THAT SOME ARAB OIL PRODUCERS ARE AWARE OF "COMMON INTERESTS" WITH WESTERN CONSUMERS.
STONE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, PETROLEUM, ARMS, EMBARGOES, REPRISALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974PARIS00439
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740159/aaaacdgf.tel
Line Count: 132
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 APR 2002 by kellew0>; APPROVED <25 APR 2002 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FRENCH PRESS REACTION TO SCHLESINGER MIDDLE EAST COMMENTS SUMMARY: SOME KEY PRESS INTEREST HAS BEEN AROUSED IN FRANCE
TAGS: ETRN, XT, XF
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005